

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 22, 2003.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Washikawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,492,909).

Washikawa describes audio signal processing device in which a single function change-over switch (21) is used to select between playback audio signal contact pieces (11P-14P) connected to terminals (11-14). In addition, recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R) are connected to signal processing circuit (22). No switch is described for switching between recording audio signal contact pieces (11R-14R). Still further, control bus contact pieces (11C-14C) are connected to a connection switch unit (32) to enable sequential time division multiplexing with the micro-computer in the audio appliance connected to terminal units (11-14).

The present invention is a component selection control system in which a turner (2), CD (3), taper recorder (4) and MD (5) each have there own audio output circuit (21, 31, 41 and 51) with their own on-off switches (23, 33, 44 and 54). In addition, the tape recorder (4) and the MD (5) have their own audio input circuit (42 and 52). A control circuit (22, 32, 43, and 53) indirectly controls the operation of the on-off switches (23, 33, 44, 45, 54, and 55) based on input

from control circuit (15) which receives input from input unit (14).

Washikawa does not disclose or suggest that each audio device has its own on-off switches for audio input and output which is independently controlled as in the present invention. Therefore, in the present invention it is possible to select one signal output on while the remainder are turned off and select one or two signal inputs as be simultaneously on. Therefore, claims 1 and 3 recite that on-off switches are separate and independent of each other. Further, claim 3 recites that when more than one input signal is selected then more than one on-off switch is set on.

Specifically, claims 1 and 3 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 3,

“A component selection control system comprising a plurality of signal output components for outputting AV signals including audio signals and/or video signals, a plurality of signal input components for receiving the AV signal, and a signal processing control unit having connected thereto the signal output components and the signal input components, the signal processing control unit being operable to process the AV signal delivered from desired one of the signal output components as required for audio and/or video reproduction and to feed the AV signal delivered from the desired signal output component to desired one or more of the signal input components, the component selection control system being characterized in that: each of the signal output components has a separate and independent on-off switch provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit therethrough, each of the signal input components having an on-off switch provided on a signal input line for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit therethrough, the signal processing control unit having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal from the desired signal output component and a common output terminal for delivering the AV signal to the desired signal input component, the signal output lines of the signal output components being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit, the signal input lines of the signal input components being connected to one another at a point connected to the common output terminal of the signal processing control unit, the on-off switches being

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controllable for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding its AV signal to the signal processing control unit and to select one or more of the signal input components for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit, wherein when more than one signal input component is selected then more than one on-off switch is turned on." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Washikawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,492,909) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

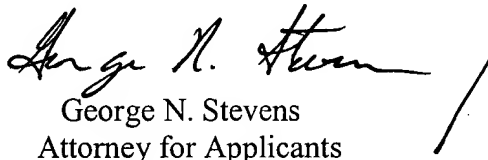
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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